

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian and Lithuanian SSRs)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1A
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. A woman who had been in Germany and was repatriated by the Soviet Mission a couple of years ago (sic), regretted that she had reported for repatriation from Germany because she received only 80 rubles per month as a pension from the State and was not able to work, due to her age. There was a similar case in Siauliai where an old couple lived in one room paying 20 rubles per month for rent, and received from the State 170 rubles per month, 80 rubles for the wife and 90 rubles for the husband. Source remembers the following prices in Riga:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price</u>
Butter or bacon	kg	35-40 rubles
Potatoes	pound	90 kopeks
Wheat bread	kg	3 rubles
Poor quality bread, <u>ruminaize</u>	kg	1.75 rubles
Rolls	apiece	2-3 rubles
The streetcar fare was 30 kopeks, but a bus trip from the center of town to Mīlgrāvis cost 2 rubles.		

2. Prices for food in Kedainiai in 1951 were:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Bread, wheat	kg	3 rb
Bread, rye, poor qual.		1.75 rb
Roll	apiece	2-3 rb
Sugar, refined	kg	12 rb
Sugar, generally	kg	10 rb

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Article	Unit	Price (in rubles)
Eggs	10	7 rb on Kedainiai Market
Eggs, Easter	10	15 rb in winter 2 rb apiece
Ice-cream	serving	1.80 rb
Coffee, beans	kg	38 rb
Coffee, beans, better quality	kg	78 rb
Cocoa	kg	156 rb
Tea	50 grams	8 rb
Milk	liter	4 rb in winter 6 rb
Meat, fresh	1 lb	14 rb

Clothing in Kedainiai:

Man's shirt	1	56.60 rb
Ladies' sweater	1	50 rb
Shawl	1	17 rb
Tie	1	12.60 rb
Garters		3.50 rb
Shoes, ladies', sole of composition, not leather		80 rb
Trousers, plain	pr	80 rb
Man's suit, poor quality	1	400 rb
A cap, patterned on the German mountain troops' cap	1	15 rb
Shorts	pr	25 rb

Miscellaneous in Kedainiai:

School exercise book	1	1 rb
Notebook	1	3 rb
Matches	package	12 kop
Personal photos, postcard size	6	23 rb
Theater admittance		2 rb (the cheapest)
Wax candle for church, 30 cm long	apiece	8 rb
Honey was also very expensive		
Postage for foreign countries, for a letter	1	40 kop
for a card	1	35 kop
Beer	1 glass ($\frac{1}{4}$ ltr)	2.50 rb
Home-made brandy, samogon, from farmer	$\frac{3}{4}$ ltr.	8 rb
Cigarettes, "Prima" brand	20	1.10 rb
Papirosi, "Rakete" brand	25	55 kop
Papirosi, "Kazbek" brand	25	7.- rb
Papirosi, "Dubisa" brand	25	1.25 rb
Cigars, poor quality	10	4 rb

3. There were no restrictions on purchasing a railroad ticket either in Lithuania or from Lithuania to Latvia. Source remembers the following prices:
 Siauliai - Riga 30 rb
 Siauliai - Radviliskiai 3.50 rb
 Kedainiai - Dotnuva 1.70 or 1.80 rb

4. Until 1949 source was not employed permanently. [redacted] Therefore, source did odd jobs here and there and the best opportunity to earn something was with the Soviet families in town who were not so scared to break regulations as the Lithuanians were. [redacted] it was much easier to get [redacted]

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married to a Latvian employed in a factory producing tinned meat; he was in charge of the refrigerator and his salary was about 800 rubles per month. A man in Kedainiai, of German descent, earned his living as a painter, but not only painting art; his main income was from decorating the ballot boxes for elections and making signboards for offices. In Kedainiai a nurse earned 400 rubles per month. It was not enough to live on, and nurses made additional money selling in the black market the linen belonging to the hospital. Some prices on items were:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Women's felt boots, to wear during the cold season, in Riga	pr	150 rb
in Kedainiai	pr	250 rb
Saddle boots, in Riga	pr	350 rb
in Kedainiai	pr	500 rb
Coffee in Kedainiai	kg	75 rb
(was available in the shops)		

The cheapest item was cigarettes: one could buy 10 cigarettes for 1.20 rb; papirosi were more expensive: 20 "Belomor" brand papirosi cost 3.20 rb, and the most expensive brand was "Kazbek", which costs 6 rubles for 20. Generally the German refugees lived better than the common Lithuanian worker because they were able to work on a daily basis, which paid better, and had free time for traveling and buying cheaply in Latvia.¹

5. There was a train leaving Kedainiai via Siauliai for Riga at 2345 and arriving in Riga at 0800. The fare Kedainiai - Riga via Siauliai was 70 rubles round trip; one could not buy a round-trip ticket, but had to buy two tickets: one for the trip to Riga, and the other for the return trip; the curious thing was that the return ticket purchased at the beginning of the trip was more expensive than the ticket to the place of destination. Source does not know how much each was, but altogether it cost 70 rubles. There was also an express train which covered the distance Kedainiai-Riga in three hours, but the ticket cost 60 per cent. more.

25X1A 1. [redacted] Comment: It is not clear from the text where these prices prevailed, but probably in Kedainiai.

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